

Mr. Speaker, that is the plan. It is innovative, responsible, and cost effective, and we are going to pass it on Thursday.

#### SAVING MEDICARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CLINGER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to use my time to talk about Medicare. As we know, the Republican leadership plans to bring up their cuts in Medicare and their program that in my opinion will destroy the Medicare system in the bill this Thursday, without really any significant debate that has occurred so far.

I think there are many aspects of this Republican Medicare plan that disturb me greatly, but the one thing I think that has not been stressed enough is how this is going to have such a negative impact on the quality of health care in the United States.

There was an article last Friday in the New York Times, an op-ed by Mr. Melvin Connor out of Atlanta. He says essentially what these changes in Medicare as well as Medicaid are going to do is to create a third-world atmosphere, essentially, for health care in the United States. He calls it "Medicare and the Third Worldization of America."

The reason he says this essentially is because when you take so much money out of the health care system, out of Medicare and out of Medicaid—and we are talking about \$450 billion—the inevitable result is that the system is squeezed so much that the quality of health care suffers.

Few people I think realize this. Many of us realize that our country has the best health care system in the world. It is not always evenly distributed. A lot of the poor people or the poor elderly oftentimes do not have the best quality care or access to that best quality care. But the bottom line is that the system as a whole works fairly well right now, and we do have the best quality care in the world.

But what this proposal does, what the Republican proposal does, is to basically cap the Medicare Program and limit Medicare spending to specific dollar amounts in the law. These caps—and not the choice that the Republicans talk about, which is not going to be there—these caps on Medicare spending essentially yield the enormous Medicare budget savings that the Republicans keep talking about.

But the problem is that the caps on spending bear no relationship whatsoever to the costs of health care. Instead, they were set up to produce the budget savings Republicans need to pay for their tax cut for the wealthy. When inflation and enrollment growth push Medicare costs beyond these arbitrary budget caps, Medicare and the elderly

and disabled citizens that are part of the program will be at serious risk.

Now, one of the previous speakers this morning talked about the trustees and said well, we have to do something to Medicare; otherwise it is going to go broke.

That simply is not true. If you look at the trustees report that comes out this year that estimates that the program has another 7 years, every year over the last 25 or 30 years the trustees have come out with a report. Sometimes they have predicted insolvency in 2 years, sometimes in 7, sometimes in 10.

The bottom line is that the trustees are not saying that this kind of a cut, that this magnitude of a cut in the Medicare Program, is what is necessary in order to keep Medicare solvent. In fact, in a letter that I previously quoted from Robert Rubin, the Secretary of the Treasury, dated September 21, to the Speaker, to Speaker GINGRICH, he simply said:

No Member of Congress should vote for \$270 billion in Medicare cuts believing that reductions of this size have been recommended by the Medicare trustees or that such reductions are needed now to prevent an imminent funding crisis. That would be factually incorrect.

In fact, the trustees have not said that. The trustees have said that something like \$90 billion in savings would do fine in order to keep the Medicare Program solvent well beyond the next 7 years.

What we are talking about here is an effort to basically squeeze all this money out of the Medicare Program and provide us essentially with a third world health care system just in order to achieve a tax cut for the wealthy. If anybody doubts that, I would suggest to them that they look at what came out of the House Committee on Commerce, which is the committee that I serve on in Congress. We tried in the Committee on Commerce when we were marking up the Medicare bill last week to make the point that if you really felt that these cuts were not being achieved in order to give a tax break for the wealthy, then why not take the Medicare Program out of this budget reconciliation bill that we are considering in Congress right now?

In other words, if the Republicans really believe that they are trying to save Medicare, rather than take this money that they are cutting and using it for a tax cut for the wealthy, then why do they need to deal with Medicare in the context of the budget? Why do they not give us some time, a couple weeks, a couple months, to look at the Medicare Program, to look at all its different aspects, and try to deal with it in a way that tries to come up with a better quality health care system, not a worse one?

The answer is very simple. They were not willing to do that. We actually submitted an amendment in the Committee on Commerce to take the bill out of the reconciliation, and it failed along a

partisan vote line because the Republicans are not serious. They want to use the money for the tax cut.

#### THE RAPID GROWTH IN TRAVEL AND TOURISM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. ROTH] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROTH. Mr. Speaker, America needs a bold agenda for change, change not only in the way we do business, but in a new way at looking at the world. Consider for a moment that the single largest global revenue producer for individuals and governments, travel and tourism, has been almost totally ignored. Yet, like a sleeping giant, travel and tourism is awakening from its slumber, and everyone, particularly the politicians, will have to stand and take notice.

This year, travel and tourism is finally getting a little of the recognition it deserves, and justly so. Travel and tourism employs some 204 million worldwide, almost as many people as we have living in the United States minus California. That equals 10 percent of the global work force.

Tourism produces \$655 billion in tax revenue. More than 10 percent of all capital investment worldwide goes into travel and tourism. Maybe that is why travel and tourism is growing 23 percent faster than the world economy.

But the most revealing statistic, the one that should make all of us collectively hang a welcome sign on every port of entry into the United States, is that there is an increase of some 50 million travelers, an increase of some 50 million travelers worldwide in the next 5 years. This could mean tens of thousands of new jobs for American workers, but only if we in Congress have the foresight to take advantage of this remarkable opportunity.

Yet when it comes to travel and tourism, we in Congress have been more than willing to take a back seat to any other country in the world, any country, that is willing to put priority in job creation. We in Congress have been oblivious to the dynamics of travel and tourism, the tremendous force in this industry, the tremendous force it has on our economy. We are all too often engrossed in issues of the day and fail to take a look at the big picture.

That is why as chairman of the 297-member Travel and Tourism Caucus, the largest caucus in Congress, I ask all Members to focus on the juggernaut of this global economy.

Also, on a personal note for each Member, let me repeat a fact that you are all acquainted with. Travel and tourism is either the first, second, or third largest employer in your congressional district. These are the businesses, the working men and women in your district. Think of them when you think of travel and tourism. Virtually all over the world, and particularly in